

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for searching potential solutions within a solution network
2 comprising:
3 authoring a solution to solve an issue;
4 storing the solution within a decision tree relating to the issue; and,
5 searching the solution network based upon the issue, the searching including
6 accessing the decision tree relating to the issue.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 presenting results of a search in a graphical presentation.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
2 the presenting includes rendering results of the search in a hierarchical view,
3 the hierarchical view enabling a user to bypass certain solutions by
4 skipping steps.
- 1 4. The method of claim 2 wherein:
2 the presenting includes rendering results of the search in a tree format, the tree
3 format enabling navigating through trouble shooting steps one step at a
4 time, the tree format enabling a user to pick and choose particular steps
5 to access.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 the searching includes a self learning symptom based search using a
3 perception of an issue by the customer.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein:
2 the decision tree links and strengthens or lessens relevancies of trees to
3 customer symptoms.

- 1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2 the searching includes enabling trees to be searchable by viewing a
3 hierarchical view of trees organized based upon business needs.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2 the storing the solution within a decision tree provides a dynamic tool that
3 reuses content and renders content based on the symptom and
4 requested environmental variables.
- 1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2 the storing the solution within a decision tree includes linking together
3 existing knowledge articles to generate troubleshooting trees.
- 1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2 the authoring the solution includes creating new articles available for use
3 through searching the knowledge base in other decision trees.
- 1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2 the authoring the solution includes creating content and troubleshooting trees
3 by viewing an issue in a process flow.
- 1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2 the authoring the solution includes dragging and dropping of content to create
3 relationships and create individual knowledge articles.
- 1 13. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2 the authoring the solution is dynamic to enable content reviewers to review
3 relationships between individual pieces of knowledge.
- 1 14. An apparatus for searching potential solutions within a solution
2 network comprising:
3 means for authoring a solution to solve an issue;
4 means for storing the solution within a decision tree relating to the issue; and,

5 means for searching the solution network based upon the issue, the searching
6 including accessing the decision tree relating to the issue.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising:
2 means for presenting results of a search in a graphical presentation.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising:
2 the means for presenting includes means for rendering results of the search in
3 a hierarchical view, the hierarchical view enabling a user to bypass
4 certain solutions by skipping steps.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein:
2 the means for presenting includes means for rendering results of the search in
3 a tree format, the tree format enabling navigating through trouble
4 shooting steps one step at a time, the tree format enabling a user to
5 pick and choose particular steps to access.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising:
2 the means for searching includes means for performing a self learning
3 symptom based search using a perception of an issue by the customer.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein:
2 the decision tree links and strengthens or lessens relevancies of trees to
3 customer symptoms.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein:
2 the means for searching includes means for enabling trees to be searchable by
3 viewing a hierarchical view of trees organized based upon business
4 needs.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein:
2 the means for storing the solution within a decision tree provides a dynamic
3 tool that reuses content and renders content based on the symptom and
4 requested environmental variables.

- 1 22. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein:
2 the means for storing the solution within a decision tree includes means for
3 linking together existing knowledge articles to generate
4 troubleshooting trees.
- 1 23. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein:
2 the means for authoring the solution includes means for creating new articles
3 available for use through searching the knowledge base in other
4 decision trees.
- 1 24. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein:
2 the means for authoring the solution includes means for creating content and
3 troubleshooting trees by viewing an issue in a process flow.
- 1 25. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein:
2 the means for authoring the solution includes dragging and dropping of
3 content to create relationships and create individual knowledge
4 articles.
- 1 26. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein:
2 the means for authoring the solution is dynamic to enable content reviewers to
3 review relationships between individual pieces of knowledge.
- 1 27. A system for searching potential solutions within a solution network
2 comprising:
3 an authoring module, the authoring module enabling authoring a solution to
4 solve an issue;
5 a storing module, the storing module storing the solution within a decision tree
6 relating to the issue; and,
7 a searching module, the searching module searching the solution network
8 based upon the issue, the searching including accessing the decision
9 tree relating to the issue.

1 28. The system of claim 27 further comprising:
2 a presenting module, the presenting module presenting results of a search in a
3 graphical presentation.

1 29. The system of claim 28 further comprising:
2 the presenting module renders results of the search in a hierarchical view, the
3 hierarchical view enabling a user to bypass certain solutions by
4 skipping steps.

1 30. The system of claim 28 wherein:
2 the presenting module renders results of the search in a tree format, the tree
3 format enabling navigating through trouble shooting steps one step at a
4 time, the tree format enabling a user to pick and choose particular steps
5 to access.

1 31. The system of claim 27 further comprising:
2 the searching module performs a self learning symptom based search using a
3 perception of an issue by the customer.

1 32. The system of claim 29 wherein:
2 the decision tree links and strengthens or lessens relevancies of trees to
3 customer symptoms.

1 33. The system of claim 27 wherein:
2 the searching module enables trees to be searchable by viewing a hierarchical
3 view of trees organized based upon business needs.

1 34. The system of claim 27 wherein:
2 the storing module stores includes a dynamic tool that reuses content and
3 renders content based on the symptom and requested environmental
4 variables.

- 1 35. The system of claim 27 wherein:
2 the storing module links together existing knowledge articles to generate
3 troubleshooting trees.
- 1 36. The system of claim 27 wherein:
2 the authoring module creates new articles available for use through searching
3 the knowledge base in other decision trees.
- 1 37. The system of claim 27 wherein:
2 the authoring module creates content and troubleshooting trees by viewing an
3 issue in a process flow.
- 1 38. The system of claim 27 wherein:
2 the authoring module enables dragging and dropping of content to create
3 relationships and create individual knowledge articles.
- 1 39. The system of claim 27 wherein:
2 the authoring module is dynamic to enable content reviewers to review
3 relationships between individual pieces of knowledge.